



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held March 20, 2019

Members Present: Katie Gannon, Roger Howlett, Jackie Lyle, Deborah Munoz-Chacon, Ashley Pedersen, Flor Sandoval, Nick Shipley

Members Absent: Ellen Alster, Jim Bennett, Laura Mielcarek, Ron van Ommeren

Guests/Staff Present: GeeGee Larrington, Toxin Free Pima County (TFPC); Steve Safken, Toxin Free Pima County (TFPC); Brent Dennis, COT Parks & Recreation; Irene Ogata, Tucson Water

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 3:31 p.m. by J.Lyle

2. Minutes for Approval

- February 20, 2019 minutes: delete 'Retreat' and replace with 'Meeting' from top header 'Minutes of. . .'; item 3.B.3, 2nd line – remove second 'by;'; 4.A. approval – change '7' to '8.' Motion by R.Howlett to accept with minutes with corrections, second by D.Munoz-Chacon; approved – yes=7; no=0; abstain=0.

3. New Discussion

- A. BioGravel – Eli Neilson, not present; moved to next month agenda
- B. Meet and Greet TDOT Landscape Architect – moved to next month
- C. Research: Witches Broom in blue Palo Verde – taken out of order (last on agenda due to presenter arriving late): done with Dr. Judith Brown, a vector biologist; overview what is witches broom, historically has been present in Tucson and Phoenix; this research started in 2014; broom seems to be largely confined to Blue Palo Verde; earlier research theorized mites, other organisms; started looking at DNA analysis in sequence matches of all database; finding 4 RNA sequence to a matching emaravirus; connected to an eriophyid mites as potential vector; research continues doing plant sweeps on healthy and affected trees; testing various aspects, including seeds to determine if they carry the disease; have been germinating healthy, non-symptomatic seeds; affected tree seeds do not grow as healthy; working on what is treatment; question is why has it proliferated so quickly since the 1990's altho it has been around earlier; findings due to various researchers from different disciplines
- D. LAC members (I.Ogata will send digital application to members):
 - 1. Education – Ashley Pedersen stated moving to Boston in August; Jose Conner with Smartscape has applied in the past; potentially Adam from TBG; Tanya Quist from UA Arboretum; Steve Safken, visitor from Toxin Free Pima County interested, will send application
 - 2. Landscape Architect – Ellen Alster is moving to Washington D.C.;
 - 3. Urban Planner/Architect – Roger Howlett's 2nd term is up and will need to find replacement

4. Old Discussion

A. LAC subcommittee Updates:

- Parks (Flor, Laura, Deborah): met last week with B.Dennis to check how to assist, review projects on Bond 407, Laura will try to be at first Bond Oversight meeting, Street Maintenance Manual – try to incorporate rainwater harvesting, and change name to incorporate more than streets maintenance, review Palo Verde Park for rainwater harvesting;
- Plants – did not meet this month, emailing back and forth with Val Little on the ADWR plant list, over 100 plant-related folks were emailed list soliciting changes; if TFPC are interested, can request/check with Val to send; will meet with Val when she's back; will discuss threshold to decide

whether to delete or not from list

- Education: get together to talk about UHI workshop; contacting Phoenix and their HeatLook book reaching out to neighborhood about Transportation and Housing – how to do community outreach

B. Community Landscape Maintenance – (combined with C below)

C. IPM Update – Brent Dennis: combined item C & D: changing IPM to IWM – Integrated Weed Management: Organic First Tucson; TFPC provided pyramid on looking IWM practices; met with all 6 Council Members and Mayor; realize this is not an easy direction due to diverse perspectives – societal, medical, horticultural research available; will have meeting with Dennis Chiotti, City of Irvine; all 5 departments charged with weed abatement have different perspectives; LAC's time and input appreciated; on study session for April 23 – that will start at noon; excited that Tucson Clean & Beautiful will have a home on Park's campus here

5. Staff reports

A. TDOT Report – staff not present

B. Parks Report – Dominic Rullo will not be able to attend due to family obligations; check if Greg Jackson may be able to attend with Bond Oversight updates

6. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events

- Potentially plant a tree for Gary Wittwer during Arbor Day
- TCB did arbor training with Environmental Services – as part of enhanced Brush & Bulky; trying to provide better services; DOC and supervisors attended; basic presentation about pruning; went out into field and did exercises; would be great if could get other arborists to be involved – check with Mary, how SAAG, as a group could get involved; education needs
- Sustainability Expo this weekend on Sat @ Ag Extension: Some vendors include - Master Gardeners, TCB, SERI, Civano, SARG
- Desert Hort: May 31, 2019 at Starr Pass
- Arbor Day, Sears Park, April 27, planting 50 trees
- Cyclovia, Sunday, April 7
- Climate Change workshop in Spanish, in conjunction with UA: April 4th (Kibal Church) and 13th (School of Death & Blind)

7. Call to Audience: GeeGee Larrington from TFPC shared the inverted pyramid, created by folks in Phoenix area; Steve Safken, TFPC, and involved with Watershed Management Group – important for COT since there have been lawsuits about Round-up, saw Complete Streets presentation, interest in recharging watershed basins via streets-

8. Future Agenda Items

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm